



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

43^{er} período de sesiones

24 de febrero a 20 de marzo de 2020

Tema 4 de la agenda

Situaciones de derechos humanos que requieren la atención del Consejo

Nota verbal de fecha 8 de abril de 2020 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Azerbaiyán ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

La Misión Permanente de la República de Azerbaiyán ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos, y tiene el honor de presentar adjunta la declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores con motivo del aniversario de la ocupación del distrito de Kelbajar de la República de Azerbaiyán, en 1993, y del recrudescimiento en abril de 2016 (véase el anexo).

La Misión Permanente solicita a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que tenga a bien distribuir la presente nota verbal y su anexo* como documento del 43^{er} período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en relación con el tema 4 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 8 April 2020 from the
Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United
Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Azerbaijan**

On April 2, 1993 the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan was occupied by armed forces of Armenia. Kalbajar located beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was occupied as a result of an offensive operation mainly carried out from the territory of Armenia by use of heavy weaponry, Mi-24 helicopter gunships and advanced fixed-wing aircrafts of Armenia.

As a result of the occupation, up to 60.000 inhabitants of Kalbajar were subjected to ethnic cleansing and expelled from their native lands, 511 innocent civilians were killed, 321 persons were taken hostage or went missing. Currently, more than 70.000 Kalbajar residents are temporarily residing in different regions of Azerbaijan as internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Armenian occupation destroyed the rich historical-cultural heritage of Kalbajar. The original architectural features of cloisters belonging to the ancient Albanian Christian heritage of Azerbaijan and having no connection with the Armenian Church were changed and armenianized.

Natural mineral resources of Kalbajar are subject to illegal exploitation. Armenia, in blatant violation of the international humanitarian law, transfers settlers of Armenian origin to the occupied Kalbajar district, with a view to change demographic features of these territories.

In response to the occupation of the Kalbajar district, on 6 April, 1993 UN Security Council adopted Resolution 822, which reaffirmed “*the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory*” and “*demanding immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kalbajar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan*”. Following the adoption of this, the CSCE Minsk Group worked out the “timetable of urgent steps” to implement the resolution.

Armenia until now continues to disregard the implementation demands of the UN SC resolutions.

Escalation of the situation along the line of contact on April 2, 2016 as the result of attacks by the armed forces of Armenia on settlements densely populated Azerbaijani civilians with heavy weapons once again demonstrated that the illegal presence of armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains a major threat to regional peace and security. In response to the attacks of Armenia, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have taken countermeasures, which resulted in providing security for the Azerbaijani civilians residing in close vicinity of the line of contact through the liberation of strategically important territories and heights from occupation.

Armenia has to understand that the occupation of Azerbaijan’s lands, including Kalbajar district is temporary. Armenia is responsible for all the illegal activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and sooner or later the aggressor state will respond for its unlawful actions.

The Armenian side must cease its policy of annexation and ethnic cleansing, and comply with its international obligations, as well as the demands of the UN SC resolutions and decisions of other international organizations.

The only way to achieve a durable and lasting peace is to ensure the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the exercise by the forcibly displaced persons of their inalienable right to return to their places of origin in safety and dignity.